



Celebrating Asian Pacific American History Month

By **J01 Carmichael Yopez**
Editor

For a quarter century, May has marked the national observance of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. "Freedom for All, a Nation We Call Our Own" is this year's theme.

Asian Pacific Americans make up five percent of our nation's population, or 12.5 million people. They serve in all branches of the armed services and have reached high-ranking positions such as Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, who is the second highest-ranking soldier of Filipino origin in the U.S. Army.

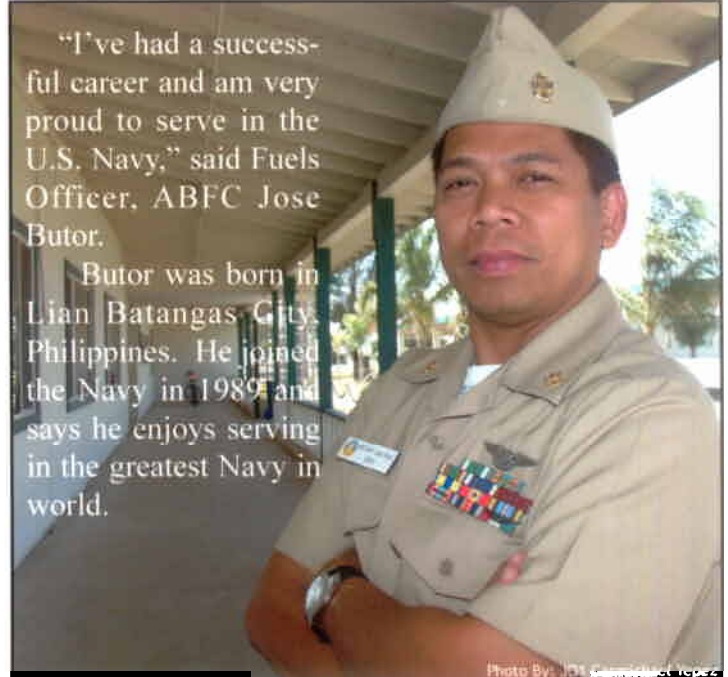
General Taguba was born in Manila in 1950. His family moved to Hawaii when he was 11. In 1968

he enrolled at Idaho State University where he acquired a degree in history in 1972. He soon joined the U.S. Army to follow in the footsteps of his father who had served in the Philippines when it was a former U.S. territory.

When the Japanese invaded the Philippines in 1941, Taguba's father was captured and tortured by them. Taguba was involved in a 20-year campaign to have his father's service properly recognized by the U.S. Army.

General Taguba trained as an armored officer and rose up the ranks to become an acting director of the Army staff during the Iraq war and most recently was appointed to inquire into the

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"I've had a successful career and am very proud to serve in the U.S. Navy," said Fuels Officer, ABFC Jose Butor.

Butor was born in Lian Batangas City, Philippines. He joined the Navy in 1989 and says he enjoys serving in the greatest Navy in world.

Photo By: J01 Carmichael Yopez

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These stories and more!

Medical trains for the ultimate attack Nuclear Chemical Biological Warfare

By **J01 Carmichael Yopez**
Editor

During the Month of May, medical personnel at the base clinic spent a few days gearing up to complete their first Nuclear Biological Warfare training.

Since clinic personnel are assigned to the First Marine Air wing in Iwakuni Japan, they are required to have this training annually in the event the airwing is deployed.

"If the airwing deploys, six to



eight of our Sailors would be part of the airwing," said HM1

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Did Sailors do well in the PFA?



MA2 Capri Griffith gasps for air as she runs down "A" Street during the 1.5-mile run.



Physical training pays off for Sailors during the Spring 2004 Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA). See pg. 8

Photos By: J01 Carmichael Yopez



Welcome Aboard new XO and CMC

By JO1 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

On May 24, CDR Daniel Denison relieved CDR Peter Hayes as Naval Air Facility El Centro's Executive Officer.

Denison, a native of Pearl River, New York is coming from San Diego and has had no problem adjusting to El Centro.

"After living in big cities, it is nice to come live in the country and smell the hay," said Denison, with a welcoming smile. "I recently made a trip to San Diego and couldn't wait to get back to El Centro because San Diego was cold."

It is not difficult to spot the new XO, he is tall, thin and very ath-



letic-looking and always seems to be sporting a warm smile.

"I have to be around people, otherwise I don't feel comfortable," said Denison. "Don't be shy about coming up to talk to me or simply to say hello."

Some of the Denison's hobbies include rock climbing, surfing, running and cycling.

Bowman is transferring from San Diego where he served as the Command Master Chief at the Fleet Air Surface Warfare (ASW) Training School.

"It's a different tempo from where I'm coming from especially working with young Sailors straight out of boot camp, but I am very excited," said Bowman. "This will be the first time I will oversee an entire base."

This will be Bowman's last duty station he will retire next September after completing 26 years of service.



On Friday May 7, CMDM (SW) Brian Bowman took over as NAF El Centro's new Command Master Chief.

A native of Columbus, In.,



Photo By: JO1 Carmichael Yopez

Biological training

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Francisco Castellano.

For two days all clinic personnel trained in detection of an NBC environment, response, decontamination and suiting up.

"The most exiting part was going through the tear gas chamber," said Castellano. "We had to do a series of exercises in the chamber and take our masks off while holding our breath, then putting the mask back on."

Asian Pacific American History Month

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activities of the 800th Military Police Brigade at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq exposing some of the abuses committed by U.S. Soldiers.

According to the New York Times, friends describe his actions in exposing such abuses as typical of a man who sees the Army as a noble calling.

Like Taguba, many Filipino Americans that serve in the Navy today were born in the Philippines and have remained in the Navy making it a rewarding and honorable career.

"I am very proud to serve in the Navy," said CSC (SW/AW) Lillian Fredeluces. "I feel honored to wear my uniform."

Chief Petty Officer in Charge of NAF El Centro's Personnel Support Detachment, Yule Coronado has spent 18 years in the Navy and would not trade his experience for anything else. "It was an opportunity I could not

refuse," said Coronado. "The Navy has taken me many places and allowed me to work in a rate where I am able to provide a valuable service to others while at the same time defending freedom."

Serving proudly, defending freedom and ensuring security for all is the common currency that all Americans seem to share when serving in the military. Awareness of our cultures can only help to strengthen the fabric of our forces.

One of the ways the Department of Defense supported Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was by allowing attendance at the Federal Asian Pacific American Council Convention, May 17 through 21, in San Francisco. For more information on diversity celebrations, visit the Navy diversity calendar at www.bol.navy.mil, or the Navy equal opportunity website at www.persnet.navy.mil

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El Centro Sea Cadet Corps attends 2004 Flagship competition

By ABF2 (AW) Robert Chiaravallotti
Sea Cadet Instructor

The El Centro branch of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Desert Eagle Squadron recently learned that hard work does pay off. And even though they did not win the 2004 Flagship competition at Naval Base Port Hueneme, Ca, they learned a great deal about teamwork.

Prior to the competition, the cadets spent countless hours practicing drills, inspections and other skills.

The day finally arrived and that Friday, the cadets were running with sea bags hastily thrown on their backs lining up in ranks outside the barracks under barking orders.

"I was really nervous knowing we're going to have to challenge the other squadrons," said 16-year-old Cadet Gabriel Juarez of El Centro.

A few hours after arriving taps sounded and lights were out at exactly 10 p.m. Approximately four hundred cadets had checked in that night making up 23 different squadrons.

The following morning the cadets assembled in Dress Whites and marched to the galley for breakfast as a long day of competition lay ahead.

Their first event was a personnel inspection at which they scored 245 points out of a possible 250. You could literally see the pride in their eyes and in the way they held themselves. Their confidence grew with every event that followed.

As an instructor, I was moved seeing them compete and working together. The weeks of training were finally paying off.

"I think teamwork played a very important role throughout Flagship," said 13-year-old cadet Marc Valenzuela "With out teamwork we couldn't have done anything".

It was big cheers for the cadets on the stretcher-bearer event when they came out with a perfect score.

"My favorite part of Flagship was the fire fighting and stretcher run. It was a lot of fun and interesting. I learned and accomplished a lot," said 15-year-old cadet Mckayla Bischoff.

By the end of the day, the cadets were tired, dirty and hungry, but they were proud cadets. The evening concluded with an array of fun activities that included sumo suit wrestling, dancing, arcade games and much more. It was a well-deserved rest after a long day.

The last event of the evening



Photo By: Sea Cadet, Commanding Officer Pedro Alaniz

Sea Cadets from NAF El Centro stand ready for inspection at the 2004 Flagship Competition at Naval Base Port Hueneme.

was "Knock Out Drill". In this event, all four hundred cadets gather in ranks with the Commandant barking out drill orders at an extremely fast and furious pace. Those teams that made an incorrect drill movement were disqualified. As the numbers dwindled, only the best teams were left. It was a intense display of integrity, focus, bearing and discipline

The following morning as daylight broke, the Desert Eagles were on the move again. After breakfast it was time for Pass and Review, awards ceremonies and final check out.

The cadets looked magnificent in their Dress Whites standing at

attention. They had assurance and confidence. The Eagles finished strong in the standings and even though they did not take the title, they walked away winners.

"We'll take the title next year," said Juarez.

"These cadets are not only the future of our Navy, but also the future of our country," said HM1 Francisco Castellano.

If you are between the ages of 13 and 17 and are interested in joining the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, or an adult who would like to participate as a mentor contact HM1 Castellano at 339-2626, or ABF2 Robert Chiaravallotti at 339-2521 for more information.

Protecting your dog from Parvo

By MA2 Cory Bankston
Security department

This is the time of year the deadly disease called the Parvo Virus. Although not airborne, Parvo is highly contagious. Puppies and dogs can contract the Parvo Virus and never leave their yards. The virus can last 9 months or longer in soil or it can be brought to your dog on your shoes,



hands, and even car tires. Birds invading the dog's food dish can also be a culprit. Even puppies that have been vaccinated for Parvo can contract the virus.

Symptoms usually begin with a high fever,

lethargy, depression, and loss of appetite, basically your dog seems as though he has lost interest in everything aside from sleep. Secondary symptoms are vomiting, and foul smelling, sometimes bloody, diarrhea.

Please protect your dog's and take them to the vet if they don't have the Parvo guard shot. To make an appointment contact the Yuma vet at (928) 328-2064 or contact your local vet. Animal control has a lot of information on vet's in Imperial Valley and could be of great help for more information contact 339-6291.



Desert Gardens Elementary & Seeley Kindergartners visit NAF



On behalf of the Public Affairs Office we would like to thank all the departments and the Sailors who volunteered to make the Seeley Kindergarten and Desert Gardens Elementary tours possible on May 6th and 20th.

More than 150 children were excited to see what Sailors do on base.

"Thank you Mr. Petty Officer," said the students. "We enjoyed the tour a lot. Especially eating at your Galley."

The Students toured the tower, NAF's Fire Department, Medical, Strike Fighter, Weapons and the Security Department concluding the tour with lunch at the Galley.

Children and their teachers were very impressed with the tour and left with a better understanding of the Navy.

NAF El Centro averages about seven school tours per year. These are made possible by Sailors volunteering to assist.



Photos By:
LT David Rodriguez & JO1 Carmichael Yopez





Ribs to Iraq

By JO1 Carmichael Yezpe

Editor

On Friday May 7, the first of 1000 lbs of ribs were delivered to the USS Denver (LPD 9) and the USS Howard (DDG 83) in San Diego to be delivered to troops in Iraq.

"This is simply a small gesture of appreciation for our respected sons and daughters who risk their lives to preserve the freedoms we all hold so dear," said Rudy Schafner from the Holtville Athletic Club (HAC).

The HAC is a small nonprofit organization that raises money to provide support to local athletic organizations. They are also the sponsors of the largest rib cook off in Southern California, the Holtville Rib Cook Off held in February every year.



Photos By: JO1 Carmichael Yezpe & Kurt Hoffman

"We wanted to do something to show our troops we care for them," said Kurt Hoffman. "We couldn't think of anything better than the taste of home cooked ribs."

According to Hoffman this is how the idea got started.

Cooking 1000 lbs of ribs was quite a feat and would take a lot of BBQ grills to do the work. The HAC enlisted the help of NAF El Centro's Public Works Department who built special grills to cook the ribs.

During the first week of May

the HAC cooked the pork ribs and packaged them in specially vacuum sealed bags. They then put the bags in small boxes and placed them in a freezer to be delivered to the ships.

NAF El Centro's Executive Officer CDR Peter Hayes coordinated the delivery and on Friday escorted Bobby Turner and Kurt Hoffman to San Diego to deliver the boxes containing 600 lbs of ribs.

On May 17, the remaining 400 lbs of ribs were delivered to the USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) by LT David Rodriguez.

According to Hoffman letters written by local school children were attached to each packet. The HAC also attached a message that read "Please enjoy the enclosed ribs wherever they may find you."

The ribs are expected to reach the troops by the end of June.

Do you have Cabin Fever?

By Dr. L. L. Flowers

Family Advocacy Representative

"Cabin fever" doesn't refer to an actual disease. It refers to a state of mind that results from staying inside a house or a building for too long. Cabin fever affects all ages. As children, our parents and other adults helped us to manage it. They would let us run outside or allow us to "rough house" in the living room.

As children, we would become difficult to manage if we could not run free once in a while. As we get older, we still need to get out of the house to have some fun. We also need to get out of the area once in a while. Otherwise, we get cabin fever and we can be difficult to live with. Cabin fever is even more troublesome when several family

members have it at the same time.

As the heat sets in, cabin fever in El Centro becomes more of a problem. Going outside when it's 100+ is not fun, unless you enjoy life in a sauna. We try to stay inside to escape the inferno of the desert. But, we run the risk of cabin fever if we aren't careful.

How can we combat the onslaught of cabin fever? Staying active is the best strategy. Even though we can't make the heat go away, we can remain active. If you enjoy running or working out, adjust your schedule to early morning or to early evening to maintain your routine. Consider running inside a gym if you don't want to run outside.

The Fitness Center has pleasant temperatures in the summer for working out.

If you want to exercise outside during the heat of the day,

consider swimming (or playing) at one of the pools aboard NAF El Centro. During the summer, we don't have to worry whether or not the water will be warm enough to enjoy a dip in the pool!

Remember that MWR also offers other remedies to combat cabin fever. Bowling, movies, and the Mirage Club provide some pleasant diversions. **The El Centro Parks and Recreation Department also offers some remedies for cabin fever.**

If you need a more drastic intervention for combating cabin fever, get out of town! In two hours you can be "over the hill" and into the sea breezes of San Diego. San Diego offers some incredible opportunities for recreation. You can check them out on your own—they include Balboa Park, Mission Bay, La Jolla, the beaches, and Tijuana. Also, check with MWR for great

discounts on Southern California theme parks and lodging.

If you refuse to be intimidated by the desert heat but you still want to get out of El Centro, consider a trip to Las Vegas. It's less than a day's drive from El Centro. There is a lot more to do in Las Vegas besides gambling. Many casinos are lavish and are worth seeing even if you don't put a quarter into a slot machine. Live entertainment is easy to find. Also, Las Vegas offers recreation and entertainment opportunities for families with children.

We can combat the onslaught of cabin fever in El Centro by finding creative ways to stay active. For further information on opportunities for recreation, contact MWR at 339-2481. For further information on dealing with stress, contact the Fleet and Family Support Office at 339-2241.



"CLICK IT OR TICKET"





NAF Sailor demonstrates Navy Core Values

By AGC (AW) Daniel Mumbach
Metoc CPOIC

It's one thing to hear about the meaning of "Honor, Courage, and Commitment" as part of a GMT lecture. It's quite another to see them put into practice, with enthusiasm.

AG1(AW/SW) Gerald Maxwell was recently awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his selection as METOC Regional Sailor of the Year. To clarify, Petty Officer Maxwell was chosen above every other SOY selectee from every METOC Center, Facility and Detachment for the whole western Region, from San Diego to Whidbey Island.

Petty Officer Maxwell's selection was, in many respects, an obvious choice. His accomplishments and involvement here at NAF and the local community have been the stuff of a true role model. One of the best examples of his character is the Partnership in Excellence Program that he established.

Some of the other benchmark



Photo By: JO1 Carmichael Yezzer

Chief Mumbach presents AG1 (AW/SW) Maxwell with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal on April 29.

accomplishments to his credit are his service to the NAF as Command DAPA, his repeated reelection as President of the First Class Association, and his mentorship of local youths for the Imperial Valley Regional Occupation Program.

It's important to distinguish the focus of still more exemplary behavior and initiative.

Petty Officer Maxwell is the LPO of the Weather Office here (a tenant command). From the perspective of the Chief Petty Officer in Charge (CPOIC), I require him to be hands-on, in charge and aware of every aspect of the operation of our office on a 24/7 basis. He's our Detachment Career Counselor, Information System Security Manager, Exceptional Family Member Program Coordinator, and Command Managed Equal Opportunity Coordinator. The really amazing thing, again from the perspective of the CPOIC, is that these are not hollow collateral duty titles. He performs each one with a sense of responsibility and pride in ownership.

The most important idea to take away from AG1 Maxwell's example is that one person can make a difference; the opportunities for becoming involved in the Command and the community are numerous, and Core Values are golden when applied with sincerity.

How to go home without taking leave

By NC1 Pamela Jensen
Command Career Counselor



Recruiters have many tools and methods to attract and enlist capable, qualified people as Sailors. Three of the most successful recruiting programs are the Hometown Area Recruiting Program (HARP), its commissioned officer counterpart, Officer Hometown Recruiting Program (OHARP) and Senior Minority Assistance to Recruiting Program (SEMINAR).

The mission of both HARP and OHARP is to return outstanding Naval personnel to their hometowns for 12 calendar days to temporarily assist local recruiters in finding and enlisting or commissioning qualified individuals. The Navy benefits from Sailors spending time in their hometown in uniform and the Sailors get to spend time off at home with family and friends.

There are no age, paygrade or rating restrictions for HARP volunteers; junior personnel are especially encouraged to apply.

HARP returns enlisted personnel to their hometowns for a 12 calendar day period (starts on a Monday) to assist local recruiters by sharing with their peers their Naval experiences. Participants visit local high schools, prior places of employment and other community locations (malls, movie theatres, parades, sporting events, etc.) where peers tend to gather to talk about Navy opportunities.

So for example, you plan to go home on leave for 20 days. By taking HARP duty in conjunction with your leave, you would actually get to be at home for 32 days (20 + 12), but only be charged for 20 days. Sweet deal! You can also do HARP duty in conjunction with PCS transfer.

HARP volunteers need to be

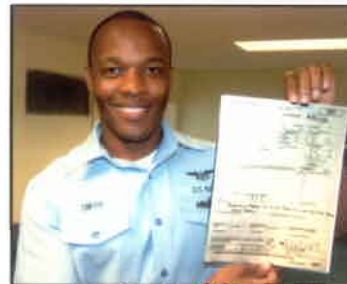


Photo By: JO1 Carmichael Yezzer

DK1 (AW/SW) Clearence Smith Jr. from PSD, went home for 15 days using the HARP program. During that time he was also able to recruit 10 people.

either high school graduates from the area they applied for or have attended college there. Members submit a request chit with screening form NAVPERS 1306/92 and HARP duty informational sheet via their chain of command to the CO. The approved HARP request must be faxed to Commander Naval Recruiting command (CNRC) at least 30 days before your requested dates (6-9 months before your PRD if in conjunction with PCS).

In addition to HARP, there are two other programs that assist recruiters: Officer Hometown Area Recruiting Program

(OHARP) and the Senior Minority Assistance to Recruiting Program (SEMINAR). OHARP volunteers return to their hometowns temporarily for 30 or 90 days to assist officer recruiters. SEMINAR helps recruiters enlist more minority applicants and enhance the Navy's image. SEMINAR volunteers return to their hometowns for a 20-day period to meet with local influential community members and to discuss the vast educational, career and advancement opportunities the Navy offers. SEMINAR duty is specifically for African American, Hispanic and Asian volunteers in pay grades E-6 through O-6.

So . . . now you know how to go home and not be charged leave. Other benefits can include a bullet for your evaluation, a LOA from the Recruiting Command or even a Navy Achievement Medal.

For more information on all three programs, contact a member of your retention team or see BUPERS INST 1150.1B.



Attention to Quarters

By JO1 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

Quarters was held on Thursday May 20 where the following awards were presented.

From left to right: LT Michael O'Beirne received a Navy COM, Ensign Michael Duwel received NAM, CMDCM (SW) Doug Lattimer, received a Navy COM, AC2 Derrick Hobson received a NAM, AO3 Charles Malone was

nominated as NAF's Junior Sailor of the Month, Bill Kagele and Ruben Rodriguez received a Length of Service Award.

Congratulations to our new Sail-

ors and their families. From left to right back row: AEAN Bernabe Serrano (Strike), MA1 Jose Sanjurjo (Sec), MA1 Jeffrey Stephens (Sec), AO2 Justin Venturo (Weps) and

MASN Raymond Mireider (Sec). Front row: AEAN Ismael Gutierrez (Strike), AO3 Shane Graves (Strike), SK1 Eduardo Pimentel (Strike) and MA1 Joseph Colon (Sec).



Congratulations to our newly promoted Sailors

By JO1 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

Congratulations to our newly promoted Sailors. Above: HM1 Michael Murray and PN2 Eliza-

beth Lucio. Group photo left to right back row: AC2 Derrick Hobson, MA2 Adam Moser, MA2 Cory Bankston, MA3 Thomas Bins, AO2 Tiant Foreman, MA2

Michael Lynn and JO1 Carmichael Yopez. Front row: AO2 Michael Hodgkin, MA2 Marco Vaca, MA3

Kimberlee Mondro, MA2 (SW) Gloria Jemison, MA2 Capri Griffith and AC3 Tiffany Warren

Happy Mother's Day

Congratulations to Mrs. Jeanette Smeltzer who won a \$50 shopping spree at the commissary sponsored by MWR.

Mrs. Smeltzer won two dollars she had to register her mom.

year old daughter Kristen insisted she go to the bowling alley and enter the competition. Kristen used the only



Welcome Aboard!

Welcome Aboard to Ensign Jerry Kao. He is the new Planning Officer for Public Works.

Kao is a native of Lake Zurich, IL.





Physical Fitness Assessment

Sailors at NAF El Centro scored well in the recent Physical Fitness Assessment test. Ninety-nine percent of Sailors passed compared to 94 percent last year.

Sailors ran a 1.5-mile course, or swim 500 yards at the pool and did as many sit-ups and push-ups as they could do in two minutes.

Top four Sailors were:
LT Peter Aparico, CMDCM Doug Lattimer, AM1 Robert Mersino and MA2 Jose Elias.



Photos By: JO1 Carmichael Yopez

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Gold Rush Bike Challenge all Month at the Fitness Center Ext. 2489		1 Karaoke Night @ the Mirage Club 8 p.m.	2 Ladies Night @ the Mirage Club Ext 2330	3 Sun Ten available at the Fitness Center all month	4 Family bowling every Friday night from 6 to 10 p.m. Peter Pan (PG) 7 p.m.	5 Cosmo Bowling every Saturday 6 to 10 p.m. Ext. 2575 Barbershop 2 (PG) 5 p.m. Eurotrip (R) 7 p.m.
6	7 Navy League Dinner at the Mirage 5:30 p.m. Ice Cream Day at the Mirage	8 Karaoke Night @ the Mirage Club 8 p.m.	9 Ladies Night @ the Mirage Club Ext 2330	10	11 Superman (PG) 7 p.m.	12 Perfect Score (PG) 5 p.m. Torque (PG) 7 p.m.
13 Sit up Challenge 14 - 18 at the Fitness Center Ext 2489	14 One of five Swim Lessons begins at small pool Life Guard Class Begins Call Ext 2627	15 Karaoke Night @ the Mirage Club 8 p.m.	16 Ladies Night @ the Mirage Club Ext 2330	17	18 Teacher's Pet (G) 7 p.m.	19 Win a Date with Tad Hamilton (PG-13) 5 p.m. The Butterfly Effect (R) 7 p.m.
20	21 Junior Life Guard Class at small pool Ext 2627	22 Karaoke Night @ the Mirage Club 8 p.m.	23 Ladies Night @ the Mirage Club Ext 2330	24	25 Lady and the Tramp (G) 7 p.m.	26 Against the Ropes (PG-13) 5 p.m. Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m. Splash & Dash at the pool 7 a.m. Ext. 2627
27	28 Second of five Swim Lessons at small pool Call Ext 2627	29 Karaoke Night @ the Mirage Club 8 p.m.	30 Ladies Night @ the Mirage Club Ext 2330	Water Aerobics & High Aerobics Daily at the small Pool from 10 to 11 a.m. Call Ext 2627. June Oil Change Special at the Auto Hobby Shop Ext 2689. Open PT Swim at the Small Pool at 6 to 8 a.m.		

KBR receives Employer of the Year award

By Pat Favela

KBR QA

Kellog Brown and Root Services (KBR) received the "Employer of the Year Award" for their dedication in hiring Veterans" for the year 2003.

Employment Development Department Manager, Norma Kastner-Jauregui presented the plaque on behalf of the Veterans



Photo By: Pat Favela

Employment Committee of Imperial Valley on Tuesday May 4th during

the Imperial County Board of Supervisors Meeting.

The Mayor of El Centro, Mr. Ray Castillo also presented KBR with a "Certificate of Appreciation" for being selected as Veteran Employer of the Year for 2004.

"We proudly accept this award on behalf of KBR," said Naval Air Facility El Centro's Project General Manager, Art Obergh. "We will continue to support our troops

overseas and the Vets leaving the service. We try to do our small part in helping them find jobs and will continue to hire qualified Vets to work here.

KBR is the second largest employer of Veterans in the Imperial Valley. Currently 35 Veterans are employed on base.

For more information on how to apply for a job with KBR call 339-2610.

Pearl Harbor Survivors

By JO1 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

Accompanied by their spouses and family members from left to right are: Pearl Harbor survivors S. A. Kopp, Ken Marini and Walter North.



Photo By: JO1 Carmichael Yopez

In December of 1991 on the 50th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor 34 Pearl Harbor survivors from the Imperial Valley formed the Southern California Chapter number 32. Today only four survivors from the valley remain, but they still continue to meet once a month at the Mirage Club on base.

During Mays reunion Commanding Officer CAPT Paul Ziegler was invited as an honorary member to their meeting.